

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TOKYO 02133 150842Z  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 SS-15 L-03 INR-07 PM-04 OES-06  
SP-02 PRS-01 /056 W  
-----150851Z 044933 /21  
R 150806Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5471

S E C R E T TOKYO 2133

STADIS //

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ENRG, JA, US  
SUBJECT: JAPANESE POLICY ON ALASKAN OIL

REF: (A) TOKYO (76) 7976; (B) TOKYO (76) 9636; (C) STATE 33294

1. SO FAR AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, GOJ HAS NEVER ENUNCIATED A SPECIFIC POLICY REGARDING ACCESS TO ALASKA OIL. JAPANESE INTEREST IN ALASKAN OIL IS LONGSTANDING DATING BACK TO 1970, WHEN JAPANESE FIRMS BECAME EQUITY INVESTORS IN ALASKAN OIL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT. JAPANESE ASSUMED THAT ALASKAN OIL WOULD FIND A LOGICAL MARKET IN JAPAN, BUT THE PASSAGE OF THE ALASKA PIPELINE ACT, WHICH ESTABLISHED STRICT LIMITATIONS ON EXPORTS, STIMULATED NO FORMAL DEMURRAL FROM GOJ SO FAR AS OUR MEMORIES RUN.

2. FORMER ITI MINISTER KOMOTO ASKED COMMERCE SECRETARY RICHARDSON (REF A) AND FEA ADMINISTRATOR ZARB (REF B) WHETHER JAPAN MIGHT BE GIVEN ACCESS TO ALASKAN OIL, THUS CONFIRMING CONTINUING JAPANESE INTEREST. SUBSEQUENT PRESS STORIES ABOUT INABILITY OF U.S. COAST MARKETS TO HANDLE ALL OF ALASKA OUTPUT HAVE STIMULATED UNDERSTANDABLE REACTION IN JAPAN THAT JAPAN IS A NEARBY, EAGER MARKET FOR ALASKAN OIL AND THAT OIL FROM JAPAN'S PRESENT SOURCES

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COULD EASILY BE DIVERTED TO U.S. POSTS WHERE NEED IS LARGER.

3. JAPANESE ENERGY POLICY STATEMENT OF JANUARY 1977 CONTAINS NO EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO ALASKAN OIL, BUT IT AFFIRMS JAPANESE INTEREST IN DIVERSIFIED SOURCES OF CRUDE OIL. BY EXTENSION, THAT POLICY UNDOUBEDLY CONTEMPLATES

IMPORTS OF ALASKAN CRUDE ON AN EXCHANGE BASIS, SINCE  
OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPLY ARE EXTREMELY LIMITED.  
SHOESMITH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1977TOKYO02133  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009